



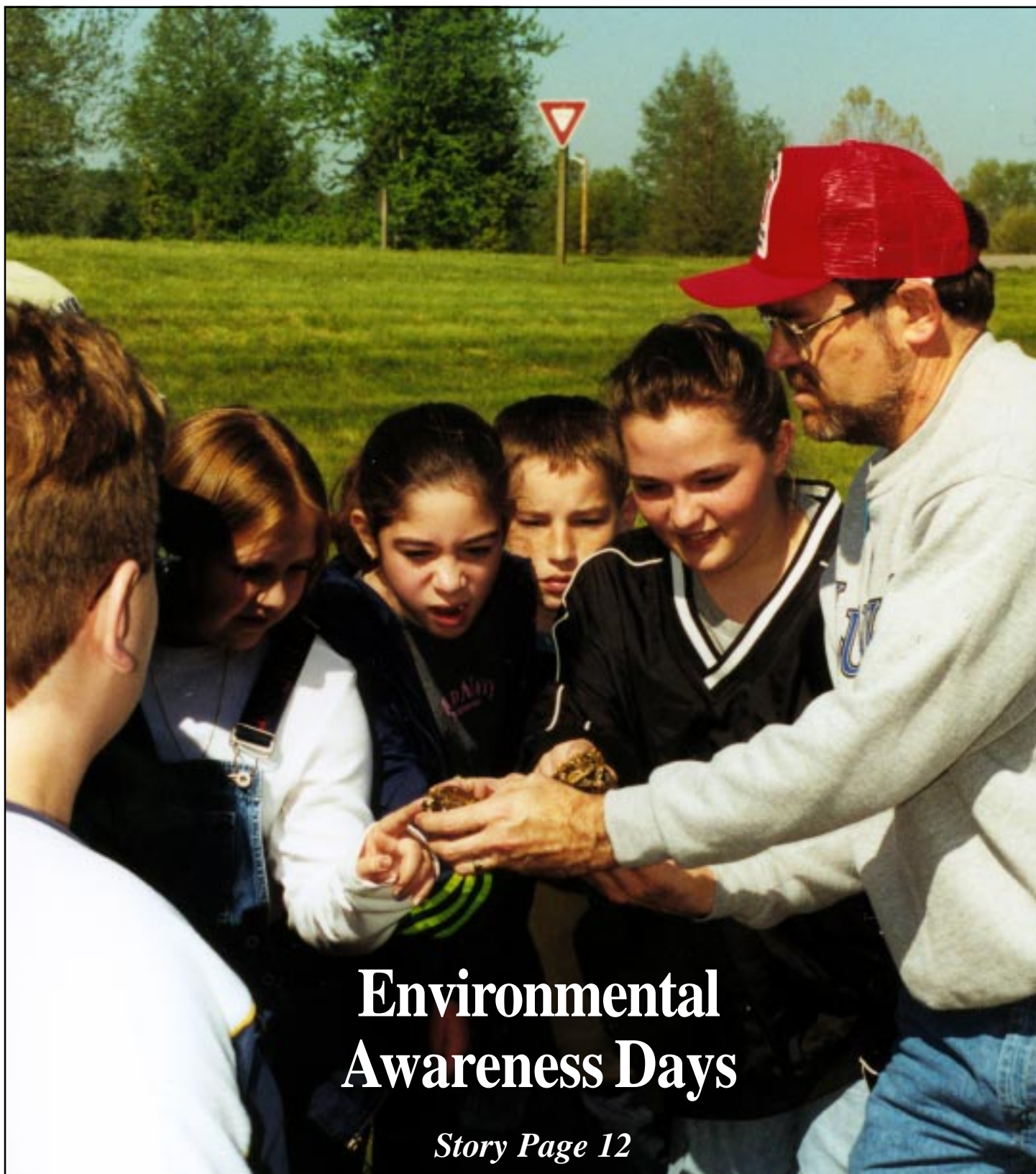
US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Nashville District

DistrictDigest

Volume 100, Number 6

Respected-Responsible-Reliable

June 2000



Environmental Awareness Days

Story Page 12

Contents

My African Response Team Adventure	4
Timothy McCleskey relates some of his experiences being deployed to Africa to assist with inspecting dams in flooded areas.	
Nashville Celebrates Women's History Month	6
The District celebrates Women's History Month with a motivational program.	
Nashville District Water Safety Task Force Wins Big in Las Vegas	9
The Nashville District received a Regional Award and three Awards of Merit from this year's National International Boating and Water Safety Summit.	
Questions Most Frequently Asked About the Mentoring Program	8
Some common questions about the Nashville District Mentoring Program are answered, and information about how to become involved in the program is presented.	
Guntersville Lock Impacts Local Community and Navigation	10
Here is an opportunity to learn more about Guntersville Lock and its impact on the local community and navigation.	
District Lakes Host Environmental Awareness Days	12
Cheatham, Old Hickory and J. Percy Priest Lakes hosted about 300 school children at each of the three one-day events in late April and early May.	
Design Branch Serves Customers through Engineering Expertise.....	14
The Design Branch of the Engineering Division is profiled in this continuing series about the branches and offices of the District Office.	
Career Corner: Army Civilian Programs Review	16
An overview of all the career fields in the Army Civilian Program is reviewed.	
Soil Surveys Now Being Put Online	17
If you deal with soil surveys or soil, you may find this article from our District Librarian helpful.	
Corps and TVA Conduct Emergency Exercise	19
The Nashville District and the Tennessee Valley Authority recently conducted a joint emergency dam safety exercise. It brought together the two agencies as well as several others to strengthen procedures and relationships in the event of a dam emergency.	
Barges Sink at Wilson, Cause Massive Traffic Delay on the River	24
Late breaking news! Two barges recently sank at Wilson Lock in separate accidents. See how the District responded.	



Photo by Bill Peoples

Regular Features

Thoughts from the Trail	3
Corps Crowd	22

On the Cover

Richard Tippit (right), biologist, Hydrology and Hydraulics Branch, shows sixth graders of Mrs. Hill's class from Sycamore Middle School a zebra mussel as part of his and Bob Sneed's Water Quality Class at the Cheatham Lake Environmental Awareness Day.

DistrictDigest

Commander

Lt. Col. Pete Taylor

Public Affairs Officer

Edward Evans

Editor

Bill Peoples

Assistant Editor

Steven Foshee

Layout and Design

Kathleen Bullock

Circulation

IMO (Mail Center)

The District Digest is an unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of AR 360-81. It is designed through desktop publishing and printed by offset process for the Nashville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Circulation is 1,600.

The editorial views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or the Department of the Army.

The District Digest is printed monthly and is a Command Information publication of the Nashville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Articles, photographs, and other contributions are welcomed and encouraged. The editor reserves the right to make editorial changes to all material submitted for publication.

Story ideas and articles may be submitted to P.O. Box 1070, Nashville, TN 37202-1070. Details may be obtained from the editor at (615) 736-7161.

Written material may also be sent electronically to the editor at the following e-mail address:

William.L.Peoples@usace.army.mil/

Information about the Nashville District may also be found on the District's homepage at: <http://www.orn.usace.army.mil/>

☐

Lieutenant Colonel Pete Taylor

Thoughts From The Trail...



Hello Nashville! Hard to believe that it's already time again for me to pen another article for the Digest — time does fly when you're busy and working with a great team.

Late in April, we selected our first EAGLE class. This was a tough process since we didn't want to make selection for the program contingent on essay writing or a supervisor's recommendation. Ultimately, we developed a procedure that attempted to distribute our 20 slots fairly throughout the entire District. I won't say that the procedure was perfect (we have several lessons learned that we'll apply next year) but I believe it enabled us to select a great first EAGLE class. This year's class has balanced District HQ and field representation and a good cross-section of experience and talents. I commend each applicant for his/her initiative and desire to grow and improve — this motivation is part of what makes the District so special. For those in this year's class, now it's time to get to work! I look forward to meeting with you in the coming weeks and to refining the program throughout the year. We'll get more coverage on the EAGLE program in future Digest editions.

Several weeks ago, I attended the annual Commanders' Conference at Ft. Leonard Wood, Mich. This was an opportunity to get together with my DE peers to swap stories, learn what's happening with old friends, and to hear the latest on what's happening at HQ USACE. One of the interesting presentations we received concerned the latest on the corporate selection, and I'd like to share several statistics from that presentation with you. Since corporate selection has been in effect (three-plus years), USACE has selected 96 folks for promotion to GS15. The average GS15 selected was 49 years old, had made four geographic moves and/or 3.5 functional moves, and two-thirds of the selectees had masters degrees. Slightly more than one in four selectees (27 percent) came from within the District; 17 percent were selected from outside the District; 36 percent were

selected from outside the division; and 20 percent came from outside the Corps, DA, and DOD. I believe we'd see similar statistics for GS14 and GS13 selections USACE-wide.

I included the statistics in the preceding paragraph because I believe they highlight some interesting trends. First, if you aspire to senior grades (and this is a *personal* choice), mobility and diversity of experience are absolute necessities. In our discussions, it was mentioned that most of the folks selected for promotion had moved every 4-6 years in their career. The second trend concerns continuing education. I personally was surprised at the high percentage of selectees with masters degrees. While typically not a prerequisite for most selections, I believe that many view an advanced degree as an indication of one's motivation and drive. A final point discussed concerning selections dealt with the importance of the interview process. Having now sat on several panels, I can attest that being prepared for an interview is essential—if you're not, it becomes immediately clear to the panel members. Again, my intent here is simply to share some interesting trends with you.

With regard to the importance of interviewing mentioned above, I recommend that you attempt to attend our Career Enhancement Workshop to be held June 20-22. The workshop will include presentations on how to keep your electronic resume current, the latest in interviewing techniques by officials from Ft. Campbell and recent District panel members, leadership skills, and decision making and assertiveness skills. Mark your calendars.

Last month, I attended a dam safety exercise at Center Hill Dam that the District co-hosted with TVA. Kathy Grimes and Jody Stanton deserve special recognition for all they did to plan and host this first-class event. Kathy's team developed a realistic and challenging scenario that involved a New Madrid-type earthquake that affected our Barkley and Kentucky Lock projects. Before the day was over, we had to contend with potential dam failures, runaway barges, power losses, oil



spills, derailed trains, downed bridges and an inability to get to Kentucky and Barkley. Ask Gerald Cunningham and Larry Nash whether the scenario was challenging. Some of the District participants included our entire Dam Safety Committee (Tom Waters, Mike Wilson, Barney Davis, Larry Cook, Gordy McClellan, Tim McCleskey)... We also had much of our H&H, Structural, and Emergency Management sections involved to include: Bill Barron, Paul Bluhm, Kim Trevean, Dave Verplogen, and Al Dunn. Besides Kathy and Jody, the team at Center Hill Dam deserve credit for hosting the event as do Ken Laster and George Grogan for all their behind-the-scenes support for the exercise.

By now most of you have probably heard that a commercial barge sunk at Wilson Lock a few weeks ago — fortunately nobody was injured in the incident. I bring this up to highlight that many of our team are involved in "high-risk" activities on almost a daily basis — our teams at the locks, power plants, and supervising construction in the field. As the Wilson event reminds us, we can't let our guard down even for a second, particularly during what many may consider a "routine" event like locking a tow. I commend each of you for everything you do to protect our workforce, our contractors, and our customers. However, as we enter the recreation and construction seasons, I challenge you to do even more to keep safety at the forefront of everything you do. The bottom line is that we're all safety officers and every accident is preventable!

I look forward to seeing most of you at our District picnic on June 16. Until then, enjoy the rest of spring, be safe, and "lead the way, Nashville." □

My African Response Team Adventure

Story and Photos by Timothy McCleskey

Upon my arrival home Sunday afternoon, March 5, my wife informed me of several telephone calls I needed to answer. Before any of the calls were answered, Mike Wilson called with an interesting proposition. Mike asked me if I would be interested in being part of a team to evaluate the structural integrity of dams that could impact recent flooding in Mozambique.

My gut reaction was "Yes, I want to go," but I did not give a definite yes until I had prayerfully considered the matter and consulted with my family and close associates. I had been to West Africa several times to do missions work, but this was a special call, and I perceived it as a great opportunity to help the people and nation of Mozambique. Furthermore, it would be an opportunity to see other countries on the African continent.

After clearing up a few issues with Joe Tyler of the North Atlantic Division, I began to prepare mentally, physically, and emotionally for the challenge and opportunity that was ahead. Little did I know that I would eventually travel to Germany and the southern African countries of South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Mozambique before returning to Nashville.

Since departure from Nashville was scheduled for 6:45 p.m. Monday, the next 24 hours were very exciting. Getting ready



Team picture: (left to right), Allen Brannan, U.S. Embassy, Zimbabwe; Lisa Peterson, U.S. Embassy, Zambia; Timothy McCleskey, dam safety specialist, Nashville District; Samuel Sinkala, senior operations engineer, Kafue Dam; Masive Mwale, principle electrical engineer, Kafue Dam; Mark Philips, hydrologist, Pittsburg District; Andrea Shoulders, project manager, NAU; Dr. Mark Jourdan, research hydrologist, Waterways Experiments Station; and Lee Campbell, team leader, North Atlantic Division. (Not shown is William Roland, communication specialist, Waterways Experiment Station).

was more than packing a few clothes in a suitcase. I needed the right clothes for thirty days, a computer and a printer, a camera, a calling card, the right piece of luggage, information on the countries I would enter, technical data on the dams to be inspected, immunization shots, malaria pills, travel orders, U.S. currency, and other personal items. Fortunately, nearly all of these things came together before my departure with the help of family, friends, the church, and the District Office.

Somebody informed the news media, and before I left the Federal Annex, Jennifer Kraus of News Channel 5 was in my face with a camera and a microphone. Her timing was excellent. If she had been five minutes later, she would have missed an interview. At the airport, my wife and I saw the interview on the six o'clock news before I departed.

My flight arrived at Dulles International Airport at about 9 p.m. At Dulles I was to meet Mark Philips, a member on the

team from the Pittsburgh District, but there was barely enough time to make the connecting flight which departed from another terminal at 9:40 p.m. I later had Mark paged while in flight and talked with him briefly before arriving in Frankfurt, Germany. The flight to Frankfurt, Germany was long and tiring after the previous 24 hours, but my adrenaline and the excitement of the mission was still quite high.

Seek Growth Opportunities

The transatlantic flight landed in Frankfurt Tuesday morning at about 11:35 a.m. Mark and I were met at the airport by Greg Deitrich and driven to the Corps office in Wiesbaden, Germany, where the other members of the team had convened. After handling some administrative things, Mark and I were chauffeured to the right places to get IDs, shots, and other necessary supplies. The Emergency Management Office at Wiesbaden did an outstanding job getting the team processed in the time allotted. By 9:20 p.m., that evening, the African Response Team (ART) was on a flight to Johannesburg, South Africa. Members on the team were Lee Campbell (NAD), Andrea Shoulders (NAU), Mark Philips (LRP), Mark Jourdan (WES), William Roland (WES), and Timothy McCleskey (LRN).



An elephant is photographed along the road to Kariba Dam.

We arrived in Johannesburg on Wednesday morning about 9 a.m. As we attempted to officially enter South Africa, the team and three U.S. Navy personnel were temporarily halted by South African Immigration personnel because none of us had visas. A call to the U.S. Embassy Defense Attaché Officer helped clear up the matter after nearly a two-hour delay.

Two Land Rover type vehicles were rented in Johannesburg to transport the team, equipment, and luggage to the Joint Task Force (JTF) Headquarters at a South African air force base near Hoedspruit, South Africa. Hoedspruit is a small town located in northeast South Africa near Kruger National Park and not very far from the Mozambique border. Motorists drive on the left side of the road in all the countries we entered, and their vehicles are equipped with the steering columns on the right side of the vehicle. These unfamiliar conditions made driving very interesting during the first few days. However, we arrived safely in Hoedspruit about 11 p.m., Wednesday evening without an incident.

Housing and boarding for the next four days were at Moholoholo Mountain View and Moholoholo River View Lodge. Moholoholo Mountain View Lodge consisted of cottages and a dining area circumscribed with a gated electrified fence. The space between this inner fenced area, where we dwelled, and an outer gated fence is the habitat of wild animals common to the region. Some Americans ventured into the wildlife



The team did find some possible problems at the Kariba Dam, Kariba, Zimbabwe. Timothy McCleskey is shown in the foreground.

habitat area to take pictures; however, after being informed of the presence of lions nearby, they were easily convinced to remain within the inner fenced area thereafter. During a night safari, we saw the real danger. The outer area is the home of lions, rhinos, wildebeest, zebras, jackals, impalas, and other animals.

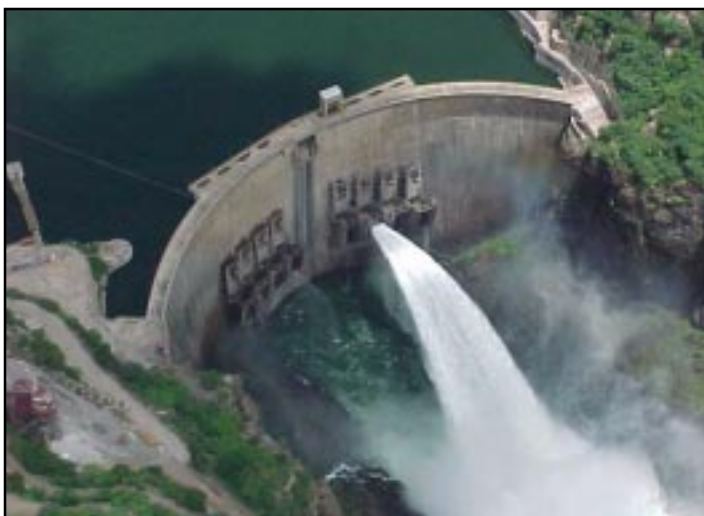
On March 13, the team departed Hoedspruit and arrived in Harare, Zimbabwe, the next day after an overnight stay in Johannesburg. Two nights were spent in Harare before the team embarked on its real mission. At this time, it had been ten days since I left Nashville, and we were

still waiting to see the first dam. The hurry up and wait situation was frustrating, but the team never lost its real focus. Finally, we were cleared to see the Cahora Bassa Project in Mozambique and talk to the caretakers at the dam. We arrived in Songo, Mozambique very late Thursday evening, March 16, and were provided housing and boarding by the

Hydroelectric Cahora Bassa (HCB). The next morning we had a brief meeting with the CEO of HCB, the project general manager, and Dr. Silva, the project technical manager. Afterward we were given a tour of the project and a demonstration of their methods and techniques for processing and evaluating instrumentation data. These processes and methods/techniques of evaluation were impressive and comparable to the highest standards in the profession. A summary meeting was conducted with Dr. Silva and the general manager to answer any questions the team had and clarified certain issues. During the evening, the team was treated as honored guests at a social gathering and dinner by HCB.

The Cahora Bassa Project consists of a high head double curvature concrete arch dam with eight spillway gates and a powerplant in the right abutment rock. It is located on the Zambezi River. The project is operated solely as a hydropower project, providing power to Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and South Africa. Repairs and modifications to resume power production and power transmission were undertaken during the last decade at the end of the Mozambique civil war. During our inspection, one spillway gate was opened. The jet of water discharged through this gate had a trajectory spanning about 400 –

Continued on Page 20
See African Response Team



Cahora Bassa Dam, Songo, Mozambique, is one of the dams the team inspected. The photo captures the power of water as it shoots out one of the gates.

Nashville Celebrates Women's History Month

Story and Photo by Bill Peoples

The Nashville District recognized Women's History Month with a celebration on Mar. 28. The theme for this year's celebration was "An Extraordinary Century for Women, Now Imagine the Future." It honored women who have contributed in many ways during the last century and the hope of the many contributions to be made this century.

The event, sponsored by the District's Special Emphasis Program Committee, continued the tradition of recognizing women's history in the month of March.

"What started as a small town celebration 22 years ago has swept the nation with March celebrating National Women's History Month," said Major Robin Hagerty, former deputy district engineer, Nashville District. "Historical societies, libraries, women's organizations and workplaces and schools from kindergarten to college are joining us in this celebration."

The two guests speakers for the event, Dr. Sandra W. Holt, associate professor of communications and director of the Honors Program, Tennessee State University, and Carrie Ferguson, a writer with *The Tennessean*, inspired the audience with their presentations.

Holt interwove her talk with three themes: that women have power, that women and men should develop their leadership skills, and that both must know their purpose.

"I believe we, as women, we complete a man," said Holt. "There is a lot of power in that we actually birth the leaders that go forth in the nation and in this world. Do you realize how much power is in that? We have a lot of power in our hands as women, let's not abuse it, but use it."

The day before her presentation to the District, Holt had attended a meeting at which three prominent Nashville women spoke. She shared with the District some of the thoughts from Dr. Laura Tucker, Metro School Board member; Stacy

Saunders, actress and wife of Leon Saunders of the Tennessee Titans; and Dr. Stephanie Bailey, M.D., Metro Nashville Health Department director.

"If you intend to be a leader in this century one of the things you are going to have to learn how to do, if you don't already know how to do it, is to help raise other people up. Be a team player. If you are a true leader, the first thing you are going to do is start training other people to be leaders. If you train other people it moves you higher."

Invest in People

According to Holt, Stacy Saunders gave these insights.

"Watch the company that you keep. The people that you hang with," said Holt. "If you have conscience and integrity and character and they don't, they will drag you down. You must lead by example. As a leader, you must be the first example. In our society today we don't see much of that. A lot of times we go through the motions, but we are not true. Ladies, and gentlemen, too, we can change that if we get something in us called character."

Holt challenged the audience to make things happen for themselves and others around them.

"If you can conceive it, believe it, you can achieve it," said Holt. "Have you ever heard that? But, it does take something on your part and that is action. My theme for this year is 'There is no magic. You have to make things happen.' You have to make life happen for you. You just can't sit around waiting for pie to drop out of the sky. You have to put forth the effort to make positive things happen."

According to Holt, Dr. Bailey challenged women to overcome pettiness that sometimes consumes women's relationships with other women and to focus on their goals and strengths.

"As far as achievement is concerned, focus on your goals and strengths. Always do your best," said Holt. "Don't be mediocre about anything. Mediocre is

yuck. It is middle of the road. Anyone can be middle of the road.

"I believe the first thing that must happen not just for us as women, but all of us as people, for us as human beings, is that we must unify," said Holt. "You can see all over our country and all over the world what is happening because people will not unify. We will not come together. We must unify and especially as sisters. I said Dr. Bailey spoke about pettiness. We cannot do that and succeed, because you really end up wasting time dealing with those issues."

As part of her job, Holt stated that she does a lot of counseling with students and she finds that many don't know where they want to be and have no vision or purpose. An equation she uses to help them is: Talent + passions + environment x vision = a lifestyle rich in purpose, according to Holt.

"Talents are those things you are just good at," said Holt. "Passion, what are you passionate about? What 'turns you on?' as students say. What gets your blood going? What happens when you are not passionate about what you do? You get burned out real easily, you are not productive, and you make other people uncomfortable. What is your environment like? Is it productive? Does it keep you motivated? What kind of environment do you put yourself in? Is your home your castle? Do you enjoy going there? Your environment should be one that feeds you, that makes you want to do even more to be productive. That is important.

"Vision. What is vision? It's your plan," said Holt. "Do you have a personal mission statement? A mission statement helps you to focus on what is important and where you are really going. Or are you just floating through life and it happens to you instead of you making life happen? You must have a vision, some purpose that you are working toward. What is my purpose? You ask that on a daily basis, a weekly basis, a monthly basis, a yearly basis or you can even have a five-year



Dr. Sandra Holt (left), director, Tennessee State University Honors Program, receives a certificate from Maj. Robin Hagerty (right), former deputy district engineer, for her presentation at the Women's History Month Program.

plan. So talent + passions + environment x vision = a lifestyle rich in purpose, and those are awesome people to be around. I love being around people who know who they are and where they are going."

Holt teaches a class in leadership at TSU and uses a book by Dr. John Maxwell called "Developing the Leader Within You." In her class, she talks about purpose. "What is your unique purpose?" asked Holt. "What are you suppose to be about?"

She also talked about a John Maxwell principle called the "Law of the Lid." This states that the lower an individual's ability to lead; the lower that person's potential. The higher the person's leadership ability; the greater the person's effectiveness. For instance if one is an eight on the leadership scale, that person's effectiveness can never be greater than a seven. If one is a four on the leadership scale then that person's effectiveness will not be above a three.

"The good news is that John Maxwell teaches that leadership can be learned," said Holt. "Leadership carries consequences, which can be both good and bad. Leaders have something called influence. When you influence people, they follow you. If you use your influence to lift others, they will in turn lift you."

Carrie Ferguson followed Holt. She is

the primary writer assigned to *The Tennessee Women* section of the newspaper, which began last September.

"When the magazine was launched last September and I was asked to be part of it, I was afraid of it," said Ferguson. "In the newsroom, you act like a man, walk like a man, talk like a man and don't want to differentiate. You cover bloody, horrible things where your gender really is not supposed to matter and in fact, you are suppose to act more manly in order to get the story. When they asked me to take this position I thought I can't go from writing about people who have been brutalized to lipstick."

In making the transition from hard news to writing features about women, Ferguson found out the magazine was targeted to an audience largely not covered in the past.

"It was going to be a place to include women who were not normally included in the paper," said Ferguson. "Often when you open the paper, you see the executive's wife or the socialite or the homeless woman. There is very little place for the women in the middle. So the philosophy was going to be, and is, that we would give women things that would allow them to fill their bucket."

"When they did the market research for the magazine, the women they talked with

said they were tired, and I'm sure that is not any news to you," said Ferguson. "They are moms and wives and daughters and business owners and caretakers and taxi drivers and everything else. They were burnt. They were tired and that's why they didn't read the paper, and they said there was nothing in the paper that could inspire them to be better."

The goal of the new section is to find women in the Nashville area who have an inspiring story and to share it with others, according to Ferguson.

"We are trying to include women who have things to share with all of us," said Ferguson. "Whether they are the CEO of a company, a clerk at Kroger or a administrative support staff member, there is something that we can learn from them."

In the beginning of the magazine, Ferguson was skeptical if they could find a woman each week to feature.

"I worried, how am I going to find 52 people to put on the cover," said Ferguson. "We've had no problem. We get calls and tips all the time about interesting women who are very inspiring. Friends call, neighbors call, and even husbands call and say 'Hey, my wife would make a great story.'"

Each issue profiles a local woman who is doing something in their life that can inspire other women. It may be in their business or personal life, but each woman has overcome obstacles to be successful, according to Ferguson.

"What we try to do with the profiles is find in each woman's life what would relate to me," said Ferguson. "We talk to them about change, about getting the door slammed in their face. People think you are crazy when you have a dream to do something whether or not you run the company or you are a secretary, there is a lesson there for others. So if you have a story for us, please contact us."

For those who missed this Women's History Month program, Lynn Bowden, audiovisual specialist, videotaped the program. □

Nashville District Water Safety Task Force Wins Big in Las Vegas

by Steven Foshee

Nashville District Water Safety Task Force members were presented a Regional Award and three safety awards of Merit from the National International Boating and Water Safety Summit at Las Vegas.

In 1998 Safety, Public Affairs Office, Hydropower, Locks and Natural Resources set the stage to heighten public awareness for water safety. The Water Safety Task Force was formed to focus and work towards reducing public accidents and fatalities at Nashville District lakes, locks and dams. The Task Force identified opportunities in education, publicity and partnerships.

Invest in People

Emmett Forte from the safety & occupational health office said, "The quality of the District's water safety effort is surely evident not only in the team work internal to the Water Safety Task Force, in partnering and sharing with others." Forte further stated these four awards provides the District representatives and partners a lot of gratification to be recognized by the National Water Safety Congress. Nashville District has an aggressive district water safety program, a voice on the Headquarters Water Safety Products Advisory Committee, and is currently assisting other districts with their water safety efforts.

The Regional Award was presented for the outstanding District efforts and accomplishments in prevention of water related accidents and drownings within a large region of the Nation. The Water Safety Task Force accomplishments for 1999 included media interviews with Charlie Bryan, lockmaster, Old Hickory Lake, who detailed procedures to lock through a dam safely and safety concerns related to water discharges from the locks and power plants. These public service messages will air both on PBS Channel 8 in Nashville and the new Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency outdoor TV show. District rangers also participated in boat

shows similar to the Southeastern Kentucky Boat and Sport Show across the District providing educational information like the award winning Corps film "Safe Passage," brochures, posters and kids' coloring books with water safety themes. Teachers' adventure packages were also offered on the District website. The safety message was further disseminated during water safety classes at Lake Barkley, courtesy boat inspections at Lake Cumberland and the Eagle Watch at Dale Hollow. Laurel Lake, Martins Fork Lake and Lake Cumberland all participated in the Southeastern Kentucky Water Safety Council and assisted the council in securing a grant to provide key chains and t-shirts with the water safety message. Old Hickory Lake, J. Percy Priest Lake, Cheatham Lake and Cordell Hull Lake all provided water safety information at their Environmental Awareness Day along with numerous school programs.

One of the Awards of Merit was presented to WLLK Radio for their water safety partnership with the Lake Cumberland staff. Marshall Jennings took the lead in working with WLLK in airing water safety public service announcements throughout the summer months. WLLK has a wide listening audience across Kentucky and the upper edges of Tennessee.

Another Award of Merit was presented to Center Hill for their assistance I one of the first Corps projects to take place in a Personal Watercraft Workshop put on by the PWC Industry Association. This workshop was an open forum to discuss concerns such as the National Transportation Safety Board statistic, which indicates 48 percent of operators renting personal watercraft, had rented a PWC once or



Nashville District Water Safety Task Force gathers for a photograph.

never. Environmental conflicts, lack of operator education materials and training information were other concerns. As a result of this PWC forum, and other water safety initiatives, Center Hill annually holds a meeting with the Tennessee Marina Operators Association to partner in water safety. They also discuss issues such as training and providing educational information on rental watercraft.

The last Award of Merit was presented to the Water Safety Champions Partnership. This was a partnership with the YMCA, Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency and the Corps to heighten awareness of water safety and the importance of learning basic swimming skills. Through this partnership most of the elementary schools in middle Tennessee were presented a safety message and encouraged to setup a school wide water safety awareness program. This team was successful in placing articles in newspapers, on TV nightly news programs and used a statewide billboard program to heighten awareness for this safety effort.

Cindy Jackson, environmental protection specialist ranger, Cheatham Lake said "I'm pleased to see the Nashville District winning these awards for all of our efforts District-wide. But I'm more pleased to see our folks working hard exchanging safety ideas and partnering with other districts in the Division and Corps wide encouraging safety for our employees and visitors."

Continued on Page 9

Questions Most Frequently Asked About the Mentoring Program

by Melissa Sager

Why have a Mentoring Program?

Our permanent employees are the greatest resource for the Corps of Engineers, Nashville District, to continue into the future. A wealth of knowledge, skills, and abilities exists all around us. Ambitious employees, seeking greater responsibility within the organization, need direction on how to move up the ladder. Some don't see a ladder, others don't have the confidence to climb, and many just don't know where to begin. This is the premise of the Mentoring Program; nurturing tomorrow's talent and leadership through insight, guidance, and assistance by partnering successful role models with aspiring employees. The attributes refined or acquired through the Mentoring Program will make each and every participant an impacting force upon the Corps' Strategic Vision plan..." to create a viable

District Water Safety Task Force Continued

She further encouraged other rangers to participate in the International Water Safety Summit on April 9, 2001 in Nashville. Jackson stated, "The speakers at these Summits are knowledgeable and experienced and have excellent handouts, which save each of us a lot of research time and funds providing safety information to the public."

The water safety awards are timely since National Safe Boating Week is May 20th- 26th. Each year over 700 people die in boating related accidents nation-wide. Anyone with concerns or questions on water safety should contact one of the many representatives of the Water Safety Task Force or the Safety Office.

The Nashville District Water Safety Task Force is concerned with employee safety as well as that of the visiting public. "I would certainly be remiss if I did not plug the one item that, if worn, would prevent most drownings. Boat Smart From the Start, Wear Your life Jacket," said Forte. □

workforce, encompassing our corporate values (integrity, professionalism, quality and caring)."

Who is eligible to participate?

All full-time and part-time permanent employees of the Nashville District.

How does "employee partnering" work?

Briefly, successful role models (Mentors) enter into one-on-one partnerships with ambitious employees (Associates) who wish to develop their career through goal setting and personal initiative. Associates, with the support of Mentors, (1) define specific career goals, (2) identify knowledge and skills needed, (3) put together a plan of action to accomplish their goals and, finally, (4) ready themselves for career-advancing opportunities.

Invest in People

Do we have to sign a contract?

Since this is truly a partnering, this year the Associate and Mentor will be signing a Partnering Agreement. There will not be a contract as in the past.

Am I required to do a monthly report?

In past years, the Associate was required to send a monthly report to the Program Coordinator. This will not be a requirement this year; the only reporting required will be the evaluations that are to be completed by all participants at the end of the year.

How will "employee partnering" be accomplished?

An associate will contact the person he/she wants to be his/her Mentor. If an associate does not have a preference, the Program Coordinator and Program Administrator will select a Mentor from the Mentoring Pool. The goal is to meet the needs of the participants and find the right match to attain success. Most importantly, upon successful matching, both Mentor and Associate will make a written personal commitment, i.e., "mentorship partnering agreement" between each other about the expectations and goals of their partnership.

When do I meet with my Mentor?

It is the responsibility of the Associate

to arrange with his/her Mentor a time and place to meet. Our goal is for the Associate to have the opportunity to meet with his/her Mentor twice a month. This meeting can take on many forms: (1) at a location outside either participant's work area, (2) a telephone conversation, (3) corresponding by e-mail, (4) have lunch together, etc.

I'm in the District Office but my Associate/Mentor is in the Field

In this time of the information super-highway we can step out of the traditional way; we can use alternative forms of communication. If you can't meet in the traditional way, try some non-traditional methods such as telephone meetings and corresponding by e-mail.

I'd like to share my successes, but Mentoring...

As a potential Mentor, more is needed than just methods for success. Your professionalism, leadership, and/or managerial abilities, strategies for goal setting and reflections on personal accomplishments will all help to improve the work life of an aspiring employee. Training will be provided (approximately two hours) to identify the role of Mentor and develop the skills such as communicating, motivating, counseling, etc., which are vital to a successful Mentor/Associate relationship. A variety of video tapes on leadership, management, and career advancement are available through the Library. Ultimately, Mentor participation will be a major contributing factor in employee-partnering. Volunteer Mentors are needed which will reflect the diversity of the workforce.

How will my supervisor feel about my participation as a Mentor or Associate?

This program has the full support of the Commander, who feels investing in people will ensure the continuance of Nashville District's role in the unified Army well into the 21st Century. Participation in the Mentoring Program is strictly voluntary. However, the Commander expects all supervisors and managers to actively promote the program and strongly encourages employee participation.

When can I join?

Those interested in being a Mentor/Associate, or if you would just like more information about the program, please contact Melissa Sager, Program Coordinator, at (615) 736-5683. □

Guntersville Lock Impacts Local Community and Navigation on the Tennessee

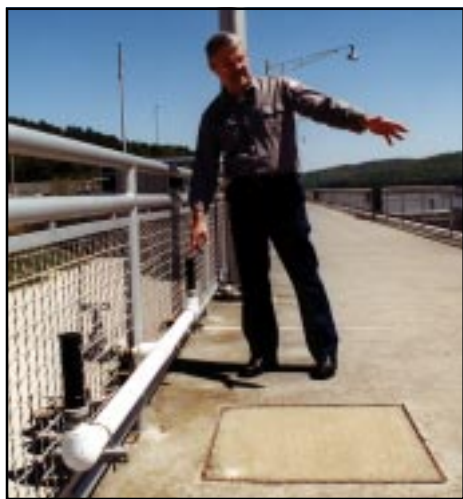
Story and Photos by Bill Peoples

If you are going down Highway 431 towards Guntersville, Ala., a little too fast, you might miss the brown sign that says Guntersville Lock and Dam, and if you did, you would also miss wonderful opportunity to see a secluded but beautiful area, according to a recent visitor of the lock.

Guntersville Lock and Dam sit at mile 349 on the Tennessee River. The lock is nine miles downstream from Guntersville, Ala., and is several miles upstream of Huntsville, Ala. Each year over eight million tons of cargo pass through the lock which has a significant impact on the local economy.

"There are several local industries, which probably would not be located in Guntersville if we did not have a lock here," said Eddy McBride, lockmaster at Guntersville Lock since 1987. "Guntersville, for example, is a big hub for grain. We get a lot of grain through here. There are two or three mills which make feed for chickens, and chicken farms are a major industry in this area."

Guntersville Lock consists of a main and auxiliary lock. The auxiliary lock was the original lock and was completed in



Eddy McBride, lockmaster, Guntersville Lock, describes modifications to the fire sprinkler system that creates a "bird bath" to dissuade an over abundance of Blue Herons from visiting the lock.



Two visitors to Guntersville Lock watch as the Motor Vessel Robert Ingle maneuvers into the lock on the upstream side as it locks through.

January 1939. It is 360 x 60 feet and holds approximately seven million gallons of water.

The main chamber was completed in April 1965. It is 600 x 110 feet and holds about 22 million gallons of water. Both locks have a normal lift of 40 feet.

"Without a towboat we can put nine standard barges in our main lock," said McBride. "In the auxiliary we can only put one barge at a time. Our average tow has between 9-12 barges so it takes a double lockage to get them through."

The Guntersville Lock like all the locks on the Tennessee River are owned by the Tennessee Valley Authority and operated by the Nashville District. This arrangement necessitates a close working relationship.

"We have an excellent working relationship with TVA," said McBride. "We help them out when we can, and they also help us out. In fact, TVA is doing a power upgrade for us right now."

The traffic locking through Guntersville has been increasing slightly in the last few years according to McBride.

"I think it is due to industry," said McBride. "People are seeing that you can transport goods by boat much more

efficiently than train or truck. We have also seen a rise in recreational traffic in the last few years."

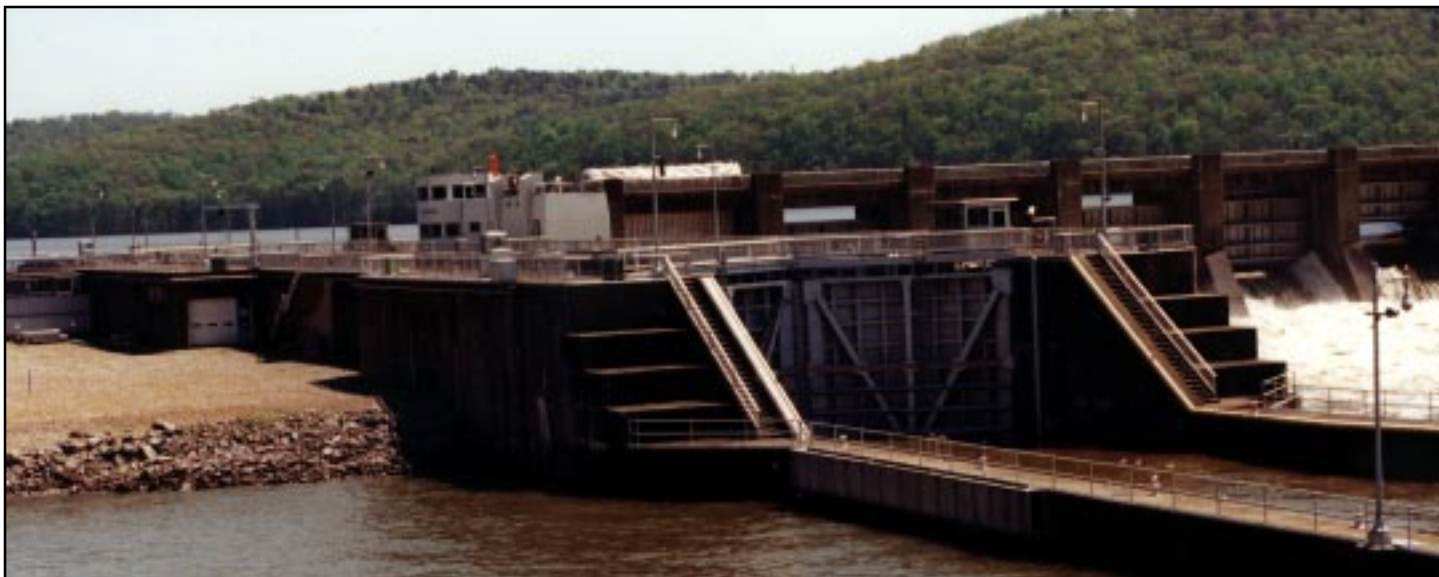
The main commodities passing through the lock are grain, coal and logs, according to McBride.

Revolutionize Effectiveness

"We primarily get a lot of grain and coal through here," said Ronny Snow, lock operator, Guntersville Lock. "We see the same boats come through here. Ingram, TVT and R&W run through here a lot."

Guntersville Lock has a unique "bird bath," which they created in response to an over abundance of Blue Heron around the lock and their sanitary habits. The lock team modified the fire system to use it to keep the birds off the lock walls and to clean up after them.

"We have a 'bird bath' that we put together here," said McBride. "We have these Blue Heron, and they give us fits in the spring and summer time. They are protected birds and we can't do anything with them, but they make a mess on the lock wall. They won't fly when they are wet so we installed sprinklers along the lock wall. We turn those sprinklers on and



The original lock chamber at Guntersville Lock, completed in 1939, is now the auxiliary lock. The 360-foot x 60-foot chamber will accommodate only one barge at a time and is used only when the main lock is out of service.

it runs them off. After a while they figured out where the sprinklers would reach and where they wouldn't so now they park in between them, but we plan on adding some more sprinklers."

Guntersville is also one of the only locks on the Tennessee which is operating with its original equipment.

"We have the original control boards and original gears," said Snow. "We have not been updated yet on our switchboards. This is basically all I've ever used so I'm satisfied with it, although the new boards are suppose to be better."

The lock has strong ties to the local

community. Several of the lock team members are from the area and many local residents visit the lock regularly. Annually, schools from both Guntersville and Huntsville organize field trips to the lock, according to Snow.

Guntersville has a strong preventative maintenance program, which was evident during their most recent dewatering. No major deficiencies were found during the dewatering last summer.

"We have a very good preventative maintenance program that we keep up with pretty good," said McBride. "Our operators and maintenance folks really do a

super job and stay on top of things. Because of that, we don't have a lot of major problems."

The team at Guntersville is proud of its accomplishments in maintenance and safety, recently receiving the 7 Castle Safety Award, and is proud of its impact and relationship with the local community, according to McBride.

"We have a great team here. I wouldn't trade my team for anybody's," said McBride. "I don't care if I'm here or not they carry on with business and I don't have to worry about it. I can count on them everyday and do." □



Bill Stone, maintenance worker, Guntersville Lock, ties off to a floating mooring bit in the lock chamber in preparation to performing routine maintenance on the mooring bit.



Ronny Snow, lock operator, Guntersville Lock, watches a tow in the lock chamber as he closes the upper gates.

District Lakes Host Environmental

Story and Photos by Bill Peoples

Three District lakes recently celebrated Environmental Awareness Days, educating local school children about the environment and related issues. Cheatham, Old Hickory and J. Percy Priest lakes hosted about 300 school children at each of the three one-day events in late April and early May.

"The educational benefit is the reason we have these days," said Cindy Jackson, environmental protection specialist at Cheatham Lake. "I think it is

important to get these kids when they are young and teach them the importance of the environment and simple things, too, like don't throw litter out. Hopefully, if they understand more about the environment, they will help to take care of it."

Planning Process

The planning for three consecutive events, which needed 30 speakers and would accommodate about 900 children, was a major undertaking. Each project designated a park ranger as the coordinator for its environmental awareness day. The coordinators were Dena Williams, Cheatham Lake; Wendy Hansen, Old Hickory Lake; and Scott Fanning, J. Percy Priest Lake. They worked together to plan the activities for the three events. The ranger staffs at all three lakes combined to assist each other at all the events. The

LinnAnn Welch, from the Radnor Lake State Natural Area, holds a type of spear and a detachable spearhead used by Native Americans to hunt during her class about Native Americans during the Cheatham Lake Environmental Awareness Day.



Freddy Couch (center), commercial mussel enforcement officer, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, talked about the commercial mussel industry in Tennessee and its impact on the environment during the Cheatham Lake Environmental Awareness Day.



Sam Reed, from Montgomery Bell State Park, shows a fossil to fifth graders from Donelson Christian Academy during J. Percy Priest Lake Environmental Awareness Day.

children were divided into groups of about 30 with a ranger or volunteer escort throughout the day.

"We started in January by sending out a letter to each of the schools in the area inviting their fourth through sixth grades," said Dena Williams, park ranger and coordinator for the Cheatham Environmental Day. "There is usually more interest than we have spaces. We limit it to 300 students so the schools that call first get those spaces."

Speakers Bring Excitement

Lining up speakers for the events is one of the more critical tasks, and one of the coordinators does this for all three events. This year Williams had this task and began finding speakers for the three events in February. Some speakers were able to come to all three events, others just one or two of them. The challenge was to make sure there was a speaker for each station for each day.

"Dena Williams has done a fantastic job of finding the

speakers for all of these events," said Scott Fanning, park ranger and coordinator for J. Percy Priest Lake Environmental Day. "She deserves a lot of the credit for the great classes being given at each station and for finding a variety of speakers from many different agencies."

Although some of the speakers were from the Nashville District, the coordinators reached outside the Corps to other federal and state agencies who had subject matter experts on topics which would be appropriate for the fourth to sixth graders attending.

In addition to the speakers from the District, Patty Coffey, outdoor recreation planner, Natural Resources Section; Bob Sneed, chief, Water Quality Section; and Richard Tippet, biologist, both from Hydrology and Hydraulics Branch; and Mark Vaughn, park ranger, J. Percy Priest Lake, other speakers from county, state and federal agencies were: LinnAnn Welch, Laura Franklin, Robin Peeler, and

Awareness Days



Sandy Bivens, from the Warner Park Nature Center, holds a hummingbird as part of her class on bird migration during the Cheatham Lake Environmental Awareness Day.

Wayne Franklin all from the Radnor Lake State Natural Area; Karen Hargrove from Middle Tennessee State University and LaWanda Bloodworth from UT-Martin, who both work with the Tennessee Solid Waste Education Project; David Withers, Division of Natural Heritage, State of Tennessee; Sandy Suddath, Cedars of Lebanon State Park; Hugh McNaught, National Bowhunters Education Foundation; Charlie Allen,

Cumberland River Country, Inc.; Darren Ryder, Freddy Couch, and Todd St. John, all from the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency; Sandy Bivens, Warner Park Nature Center, Nashville Parks and Recreation; Carolyn Dillard and Rhonda Batts, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Sarah Welker, Cross Creeks National Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Dwight Barnett, Tennessee Department of Agriculture; Sam Reed, Montgomery Bell State Park; and Kathryn McCoy, Energy Division, Tennessee Department of Economics and Community Development.

All the speakers had similar goals for their classes, namely, to raise awareness about their topic and to generate some interest.

"I want to share some enthusiasm with them and peak their interest so that they might want to learn more," said Bivens. "My topic today was bird migration, so we went over a little bit about birds and what migration is and how they can learn more about it. We have



Robin Peeler, from the Radnor Lake State Natural Area, lets students touch a corn snake as part of her reptile class. The class, which also included the display of a timber rattlesnake and a king snake, was one of the more popular classes during the Cheatham Lake Environmental Awareness Day.

counted over twenty species today, which is wonderful."

"I think it is important to give some information and to generate some interest in whatever topic we are discussing," said Welker. "If we can get them to thinking about a topic, whether it is what I'm talking about, illegal wildlife trade, or one of the other topics, we can maybe start a lifelong interest."

teacher of the class attending.

Opportunity

The real asset to the schools was the opportunity to promote environmental awareness among their students, according to Williams.

**Continued on Page 17
See *Environmental Days***

Schools Participating

Schools participating in the Environmental Days were: Sycamore Middle and Pegram Elementary at Cheatham Lake; Nanny Berry Elementary, Sumner Academy, St. Joseph's Academy, Walton Ferry Elementary, and Hawkins Middle School at Old Hickory Lake; and Donelson Christian Academy and the Holy Rosary Academy at J. Percy Priest Lake.

The schools involved provided transportation to and from the events and lunch for students at each event. Each school also provides a chaperone for each group, usually the



Jake Butcheloor, 4th grader from Holy Rosary Academy, cranks a wheel turning motion energy into electrical energy to power the radio/flashlight during the J. Percy Priest Lake Environmental Awareness Day.



A student from Donelson Christian Academy helps Karen Hargrove, from the Tennessee Solid Waste Education Project, hold a quilt made from used t-shirts as part of her class on recycling.

Design Branch Serves Customers Through Engineering Expertise

Story and Photos by Bill Peoples

The Design Branch of the Engineering Division is responsible for the engineering design functions within the Nashville District.

"We are primarily responsible for the structural, mechanical and electrical design functions within the District," said Wilson. "We have three primary customers: Construction-Operations Division, where we provide support for maintenance and the rehabilitation efforts of our multipurpose projects; Construction Branch where we provide engineering support during construction by helping with held problems, checking shop drawings, and as built drawings. Our third customer is Project Management where we have a lot of our focus now, Kentucky Lock being the biggest part of that work. On Kentucky Lock, we are responsible for the lock design, a good portion of the cofferdam design, guide wall designs, and are supporting the relocations railroad, highway and transmission towers."

The \$530 million Kentucky Lock Addition is a large part of the current workload of the branch. The branch has the lead on about \$350 million worth of it.



Dalton McCrary, engineering technician, Design Branch, uses Computer Aided Design and Drafting to assist the engineers in completing their designs.



Ron Carter (left), lead technical engineer for Kentucky Lock, points out a design feature to Gordon McCellan, chief, Civil-Structural Section, Design Branch. Almost everyone in the Design Branch is involved in the design of the lock addition at Kentucky Lock.

This translates into just about all of the 21 people in the branch spending a significant portion of their work hours on Kentucky Lock.

"We have 21 people in the Branch and I'd say 21 people are involved in Kentucky Lock," said Wilson. "Almost everyone in

the branch has some part in Kentucky Lock, from Ron Carter who is the lead on the lock and cofferdam designs to even our student engineer, Adam Davidson, who works a good part of his time as a co-op on Kentucky Lock. That is a project that consumes the whole branch. It is our meat and potatoes."

Many of the projects, which the

District works on, have a design element. If the project is primarily structural, electrical or mechanical, the Design Branch would take the lead for the project and see it through from conception, to feasibility, to plans and specs and finally to construction.

"It depends on the project features and the nature of the project who has the lead on a project," said Wilson. "For instance the Barbourville Levee, Geotech had the lead on it; whereas the Harlan Floodwall, which is primarily structural, with electrical/mechanical (the pump station), the Design Branch had the lead on it."

The branch also does some work for other Districts. The Design Branch is fortunate to have several engineers who are considered "experts" in certain topics and are sought out by other districts to do work for them, according to Wilson.

"We produce products, plans and specs, contract drawings for construction which actually go to a contractor, as does Geotech," said Wilson. "We are responsible for producing the package that goes to the contractor."

Continued on Page 15

New Chief Talks About His Goals for the Design Branch

Mike Wilson, recently named the new Chief of the Design Branch, began his career with the Corps in the Design Branch and after assignments in planning and project, management has return to the branch. He is excited about moving the branch forward and has several goals for the Branch:

- Stay technically sharp, be known for its technical competence, not as a contracting organization. Every structural engineer is a registered engineer and most of the electrical and mechanical engineers are registered. Continue to have our engineers obtain this professional recognition.
- Be positioned to meet the future needs of the District. Have a balance between in-house and contracted work where in-house team members can perform some of the choicest work and then contract out those jobs where the District doesn't have the expertise.
- Find efficiencies in the management of Architectural-Engineering contracts as well as continuing to meet mandated contracting percentages.
- Continue to support the operational projects. As the District projects age, the Design Branch will be able to assist in the continued maintenance of projects.
- Bring in new technicians to ensure the Branch remains staffed in this key area. Possibly do this by using the co-op program.

"I want to see that these guys are given every opportunity that I can avail to them," said Wilson. "I want to encourage them to do outside reading, outside correspondence courses or even go back to graduate school if possible. I want them to look for opportunities to cross-train, hopefully with the goal of coming back to this branch a better engineer. As a supervisor, I want to look for opportunities to help them develop professionally and personally. I think that as you develop yourself personally you also become a better professional at the same time. I'd also encourage them to be active in outside activities like SAME (Society of American Military Engineers), ASCE (American Society of Civil Engineers), the Management Sponsored Activities Committee, and the Castle Club."

Design Branch Continued

The Branch is divided into two sections, the Civil-Structural Section and the Electrical-Mechanical Section.

The Civil-Structural Section is headed by Gordon McClellan. He leads a team of 12 members, which includes five civil engineers, a part-time engineer, one engineer on temporary assignment, two engineering technicians, a co-op student and a student aide.

"We design the structural and civil features for the projects that the Nashville District undertakes," said McClellan. "We design both in-house and use A-E (architectural-engineering) firms to supplement when necessary."

The Structural Section prides itself in having some very knowledgeable engineers, some of whom are known Corps-wide for their expertise.

"James Gunnels does our concrete

stability work," said McClellan. "He has done that type of work for a number of years and is very good at it. Ken Hull is a very good structural steel designer. Ron Carter has done a lot of things including structural steel and a good bit of concrete work. He is leading our design effort on the Kentucky Lock project. Two of our younger engineers Larry Haley and Mike Lee are coming along doing all sorts of things. Larry is heavily involved in Kentucky Lock and Mike is involved in many

Continued on Page 21
See Design Branch

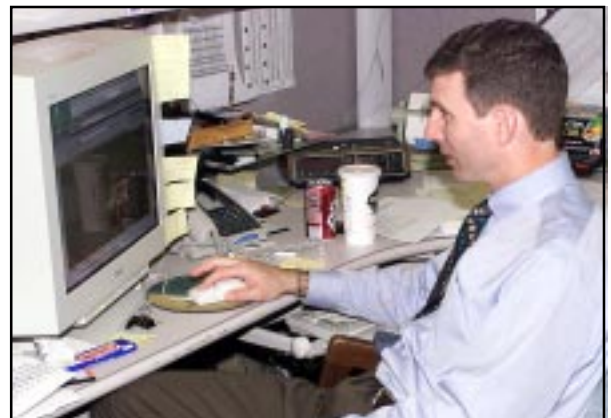
Larry Haley, civil engineer, Civil-Structural Section, Design Branch, works on the cofferdam design of Kentucky Lock.



Mike Lee, mechanical engineer, Electrical-Mechanical Section, Design Branch, looks over drawings from and architectural-engineering firm, whose work he is overseeing.



Long Truong (left), mechanical engineer, discusses a design with Mark Kohl (right), lead electrical-mechanical engineer, Electrical-Mechanical Section, Design Branch.



Army Civilian Career Program

The Army Civilian Career Program is a mandatory referral system governed by DA 690-950, DA Pamphlet 690-950, and the Army Civilian Career Evaluation Systems (ACCES) Consolidated Career Program Guide. The following lists the Career Program Mandatory Title and Code, the Mandatory Referral levels and the Occupational Series in that Career Program. In future issues we will go into more detail on the individual career programs and registration requirements.

CP Mandatory Army-Wide Referral Levels and Occupational Series		
CP Title and Code	Referral Levels	Occupational Series
Civilian Personnel Administration CP -10	GS 13-15	201, 212, 221, 230, 233, 235
Comptroller CP-11	GS 12-15	110, 343, 501, 505, 510, 511, 560, 896, 1515, 1520, 1530
Safety & Occupational Health Mgmt. CP-12	GS 12-15	018, 803, 1306, 1815
Supply Mgmt. CP-13	GS 13-15	340, 346, 2001, 2003, 2010, 2030, 2032, 2050
Contracting and Acquisition CP-14	GS 12-15	1101, 1102, 1103, 1150
Quality and Reliability Assurance CP-15**	GS 13-15	1910
Engineers and Scientists (Non-Construction) CP-16**	GS 13-15	**062, 101, 150, 180, 401, 403, 405, 408, 410, 413, 414, 430, 434, 435, 437, 487, 793, 302, 801, 806, 810, 819, 830, 840, 850, 854, 855, 858, 861, 871, 892, 893, 894, 896, 1301, 1306, 1310, 1313, 1320, 1321, 1340, 1382, 1384, 1515, 1520, 1529, 1530, 1550
Materiel Maintenance Mgmt. CP-17	GS 13-15	301, 340, 346, 802, 856, 895, 1101, 1152, 1601, 1670
Engineers and Scientists (Resources and Construction) CP-18**	GS 13-15	**020, 023, 025, 028, 101, 110, 150, 184, 193, 401, 408, 414, 430, 460, 470, 471, 480, 482, 486, 801, 804, 806, 807, 808, 810, 819, 830, 840, 850, 855, 871, 880, 881, 893, 896, 1008, 1301, 1310, 1313, 1315, 1320, 1330, 1350, 1360, 1370, 1372, 1373, 1520, 1529
Physical Security and Law Enforcement CP-19**	GS 11-15	**006, 072, 080, 083, 085, 086, 301, 1801, 1802, 1810, 1811, 1812
Quality Assurance Specialist (Ammunition Surveillance) CP-20	All	1910
Public Affairs and Communications Media CP-22	GS 11-15	1035
Transportation Mgmt. CP-24	GS 13-15	346
Manpower and Force Management CP-26	GS 12-15	343, 896
Housing Mgmt. CP-27	GS 11-15	1173
Equal Employment Opportunity CP-28	GS 11-15	260
Education Services CP-31	GS 11-15	1740, 1710
Training CP-32	GS 12-15	301, 1701, 1702, 1710, 1712, 1750
Ammunition Mgmt. CP-33	GS 11-15	**301, 340, 346, 802, 895, 1101, 1150, 1152, 1601, 1670, 2001, 2003, 2010, 2030, 2050, 2101, 2130
Information Mgmt. (IM) CP-34 -- Automation Track -- Records Mgmt. Tract -- Telecommunications Track -- Visual Information Track -- Publishing Track -- Technical Publishing Track -- Librarian Career Track	GS 13-15 GS 11-15 GS 12-15 GS 11-15 GS 11-15 GS 11-15 GS 11-15	334 343 391, 393 1001, 1020, 1060, 1071, 1084 1082 1083 1410
Intelligence CP-35	GS 14-15	Mandatory referral when filling competitively for series 132, 080, 1701, and 1712 as well as for series in occupational groups 400, 800, 1300, and 1500 which include all two-grade interval scientific and technical positions engaged in target intelligence and, or, the engineering, physical or technical sciences in an intelligence function, assigned to an organizationa component performing an intelligence mission
Military Personnel Mgmt. CP-15	GS 11-15	205
**No central referral. Vacancies are announced on the Army Civilian Personnel Online (CPOL) website.		

Soil Surveys Now Being Put Online

by James Siburt, District Librarian

For those who use the Department of Agriculture's county soil surveys, prepare for a gradual change to digital format. While still in its infancy, the program to change the century old delivery of hard copy soil reports and maps is underway. Recently, new surveys for Tennessee counties Cheatham, Trousdale and Grainger appeared electronically. An easy way to access this site is through the government statistics web at <http://www.fedstats.gov>. Once there click on Sitemap, go to programs, click on natural resources and then on soil surveys. This brings up the homepage of the USDA-NRCS National Soil Survey Center homepage. Or you can go directly to <http://www.statlab.iastate.edu/soils/nscc/main.html>, a site maintained by Iowa State University.

In addition to the surveys there is a wealth of other soil information available. For example, there is a twenty-one page catalog of publications and materials covering standards, survey procedures, classification, laboratory data, conference proceedings, soil geography and soil quality. There are online manuals and handbooks, recently written or updated

technical reports and a variety of published state data. Also available are data files that may be downloaded such as the National SSURGO Database that currently contains data on more than 800 counties nationwide. Of these counties, a significant number fall within the Nashville District boundary. Included with this file is an electronic users guide.

For those seeking additional information, the National Soils Database, found under the Natural Resources Conservation Service site, is a good source. This site is mainly an index to sites with cartographic information relating to soils. Included is a Map Library (a huge clearinghouse site of USGS maps, among others), a site given to basic cartography, links to status maps, watershed boundary maps and soil data maps. Also in this group there is a site devoted to plants.

The only negative aspect about this site is the time it takes to download material. I tested two separate soil surveys and found the download time to be 5-8 minutes each. The files do not load an index and allow you to pick needed sections; instead the entire report loads. Hopefully, this will be modified. All the files are in the .pdf format and require the Acrobat3 Reader to view. □

Environmental Days *Continued From Page 13*

"It is good to come out to these environmental days to provide information to the local school children," said Tippet, biologist with Nashville District who along with Sneed talked about water quality. "When they grow up, and if they stay in this area, they'll appreciate the aquatic environment and how special it is and how important it is. So this is a real opportunity for us."

"To me learning about fossils is the best way to learn where they are from," said Sam Reed, Montgomery State Park, who taught the fossil class at the J. Percy Priest Lake Environmental Day. "They can learn about the area they come from by learning about what was here in the past."

Although it is difficult to gauge the

success of events like this, the interest level of the children and their comments and questions seemed to spark an interest in many of the participants, according to Hansen.

"Through these opportunities we have tried to educate the children about the environment," said Williams, "things we can do to help our environment, things we need to watch for to protect our environment and ways to improve our environment. Some of these children never get to participate in outdoor activities. All the speakers have tried to spark an interest in these children to be more aware of the environment, and I think many of the children carried that spark away with them." □

District Picnic Fast Approaching

The Annual Engineer Day Picnic for Nashville District will be held on Friday, June 16 at the Rockland Recreation Area. The vote was cast and the following was agreed on for the picnic menu:

Chicken (Barbecued/Grilled)
Hamburgers
Hot Dogs
Potato Salad
Corn on the Cob
Baked Beans
Cole Slaw
Chips
Watermelon (be good for a nice watermelon seed spitting contest)
Ice cream
All the fixin's for hamburgers/hot dogs

Schedule of Activities

8 a.m. — Fun Run & Volley ball begin
9 a.m. — Kid's Games begin
10 a.m. to 12 p.m. — Clown and Face Painting
11 a.m. — Lunch Served & Bingo while you eat
12:30 p.m. — Length of Service Awards Presented
All Day — Kids Space Walk Jump Balloon
All Day — Door Prizes will be presented

The picnic will be free to all District employees, but you still need a ticket to attend. Prices for family members and guests will be: ages 3-10 is \$2, and over age 10 is \$4. Tickets can be picked/purchased from Judy Smith, (615) 736-7161.

Corps and TVA Conduct Emergency Exercise

Story by Bill Peoples

On April 13, the Nashville District and the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) conducted an emergency exercise at Center Hill hydropower plant to test the responsiveness to a disaster involving several agencies. Tennessee Emergency Management Agency, Kentucky Emergency Management Agency, and the U.S. Coast Guard participated in the exercise. Mississippi Emergency Management Agency also had a representative attend as an observer.

"I was very impressed," said Lt. Col. Pete Taylor, District Engineer, Nashville District. "I spent most of my time sitting with the Dam Safety Committee. I was very much impressed by how the different disciplines noticed key points that needed to be looked at and then addressed them. My kudos and congratulations to the whole team who put this together, TVA and our folks in the District, Kathy Grimes, Jody Stanton, Bill Bennett, Miller Moore, George Groghan, Mike Swing, and others. It was well thought out and well done."

The exercise scenario involved a major earthquake on the New Madrid fault zone, which affected both the Kentucky Dam, Lock, and Power Plant and the Lake Barkley Dam, Lock, and Power Plant.

The exercise began at 10 a.m. and was conducted in real time but with a four-hour

Members of the Nashville District Dam Safety Committee were busy coordinating responses to the earthquake that "damaged" Kentucky and Barkley Dams during joint dam safety exercise by the Nashville District and the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA).



Photo by Bill Peoples

time difference so that made the exercise time 6 a.m. Shortly after 6 a.m., the earthquake occurred and the first obstacle was communication.

"That was very frustrating," said Tom Waters, Chief of the Engineering Division, and the Nashville District Dam Safety Officer. "For them to start with the phones out from home, we never expected that. I realized I don't have everyone's cell phone numbers. I have everybody's home phone number. I've got one or two cell phone numbers, and I think everybody at the table was about that same way. We need alternate forms of communication. That is probably going to be one of the big learning points of the exercise."

Challenges

One of biggest challenges for the dam safety committee was assimilating information from many sources, analyzing it, engaging the proper people on the information, making a projection from that information, and then taking action, according to Waters.

"I think the biggest challenge for me was staying in communication with everyone," said Warren Bennett, chief, Geotechnical Branch. "I found myself working a lot with my own team in Geotech and spending a lot of energy there, but there were a lot of things going on with H&H and Structures that I was not aware of. So keeping in touch with everything that was happening was a challenge."

From a Hydrology and Hydraulics perspective, the most challenging part of the exercise was the canal that connects Lake Barkley and Kentucky Lake.

"As the situation developed, trying to figure out what to do with the canal was challenging," said Dennis Williams, chief, Hydrology and Hydraulics Branch. "We had Bill Barron and John Hunter running models on laptops to help out. Once we knew what was happening or supposedly happening at Barkley and Kentucky then we could figure out what to do with the canal. We have the failure models on two different laptops, and we've done failure studies over the years. These fellows are very familiar with these dams and the failure studies for them. They were plugged in almost immediately and waiting for data to be fed to them."

The computer models allowed Barron and Hunter to run different scenarios on the computer and predict the effects of a dam failure at Barkley or Kentucky or both failing together. Also modeled were the effects of the volume of flow being released from Barkley Dam, and this information was used to set the amount of outflow during the exercise, according to Barron.

Lessons learned

"I think the biggest learning point in the case of Kentucky-Barkley is that TVA and the Corps need to be acting almost as one agency as far as dam safety goes," said Waters. "We did well together today, but it was obvious we were learning about each others' capabilities, processes, and procedures as we went along."

"The biggest thing that jumped out at me was how fast things happen," said Barney Davis, chief, Construction Branch.



Photo by Lynn F. Bowden, III

Tom Waters (left), chief, Engineer Division and chairman of the Nashville District Dam Safety Committee, coordinates with members of the TVA staff during the Joint Dam Safety Exercise. Beside him Lt. Col. Pete Taylor (center), district engineer, observes the committee at work as Jim Deal (partially obscured) and Gordon McClellan (right) work other issues.

"With the timeframes they gave us here, which we were supposed to be doing in real time, it was hard to react as quickly as things were happening and then the other part of that was that we found ourselves so busy reacting that it was half-way through the exercise before we ever thought about planning."

Strengths

Not all the lessons learned were bad ones. One of the strengths of the Nashville District was the Dam Safety Committee and the members on that committee, according to Davis.

"Once we got the Dam Safety Committee together and let it be the action team that filtered through everything else, I think we worked very well together," said Davis. "I think the meat of our plan, which is 'who do you get involved right away' is very strong. I think we will come out of this exercise with some things that will make the plan even better."

The perspective from a team member in the affected area was very similar. "I think our plan was pretty good," said David Morgan, Barkley Power Plant manager. "We followed our plan and it worked pretty well. I'm sure we will see some places that need to be tweaked as all the information from the exercise comes together. The exercise proved to me that the guys I have working at the plant are pretty knowledgeable of the facility and what to do if something like this ever happens. I also have to brag on the guys from the inspection team from the District Office because they helped out quite a bit. When we got into stuff going on in the earth-filled portion of the dam, they had a lot of knowledge."

As the scenario unfolded another strength that was brought to light, again, was the quality of the people the Nashville District has to respond to these types of emergencies.

"I think the team we have in Geotech to answer these kinds of issues and problems is top-notch," said Bennett. "They know exactly what they are doing. They are very familiar with the projects and I found it interesting that the team, the whole team, that went to the site was headed up by a geotechnical engineer, Paul Bluhm. We had Tim McCleskey working on it at the District Office, and Paul Ross, a geologist, on the on-site team. We had a very tight team."

The exercise was not without its tense moments that taxed even the most experienced personnel.

"The most intense time was when TVA notified us that they were going to lose Kentucky Dam," said Waters. "At that point we had to decide whether or not to close the canal and how to go about closing the canal. There were a lot of implications in that. So, that was the most intense time."

"No matter how well you plan, you are going to have some confusion," said Paul Bluhm, a geotechnical engineer and leader of the on-site response team. "As long as you know what is occurring and try to keep a clear head and ask the proper questions you can overcome a lot of that stuff."

The planning for the exercise began about six months before the exercise and picked up speed in January. A combined team from both TVA and the District were responsible for putting the exercise together, four personnel from the District and eight from TVA, according to Kathy Grimes, Dam Safety coordinator for the District.

"Bill Bennett, Miller Moore, Jody Stanton, and I planned the Barkley portion of the exercise," said Grimes. "We worked on the scenario for about three months, one to three days a week. Olga Beddingfield and the Center Hill staff were especially helpful throughout the entire process."

The initial assessments of the success of the exercise from the coordinators were good.

"I think there are things that we can do better," said Grimes. "We had some gaps in information. We found some things to work on and some things to be proud of. A pat on the back goes to the Barkley Project personnel. They knew exactly what to do, handling the crisis the way it should have been handled and passing the information along as quickly as they could. They provided the Dam Safety Committee



Photo by Bill Peoples

Members of the Kentucky/Barkley area team, respond to the crisis. The members are: (clockwise beginning at the bottom left) Larry Nash, David Morgan, Cynthia Martin, Dick Lovett and Gerald Cunningham.



Photo by Lynn F. Bowden, III

Tim McCleskey (left), chief, Soils and Dams Section, Geotechnical Branch; Warren Bennett (partially shown), chief, Geotechnical Branch; and Paul Ross, geologist, Geology Section, Geotechnical Branch, discuss an issue during the Joint Dam Safety Exercise.

with all the information they needed to make the decisions which needed to be made."

"I think the exercise went very well," said Cris Hughes, TVA Dam Safety Coordinator. "We achieved most of our objectives and all of them to a degree. The participants responded well and did those things that we wanted them to practice and are leaving here a little more familiar with those emergency procedures. I think there is room for improvement. I think we did see that today. One thing is that we need to define and know exactly who is the official contact in each agency for different areas."

The exercise impressed participants and observers alike. It reinforced the high level of professionalism the Nashville District has in responding to these types of events, according to Bennett. □

African Response Team

Continued from Page 5

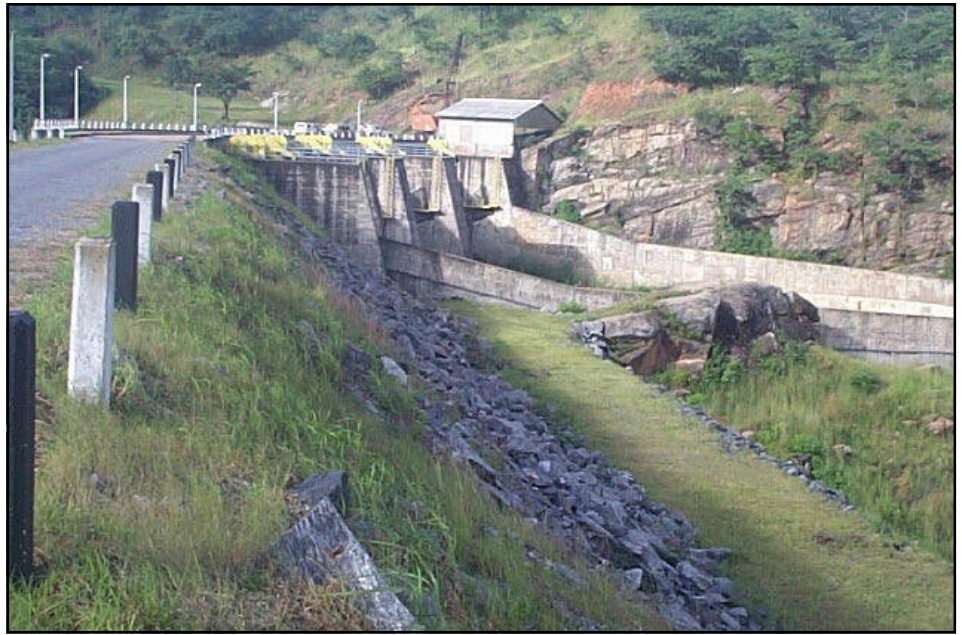
500 meters and was nothing short of spectacular. The project seems well maintained, the caretakers were quite aware of pertinent dam safety issues, and the team did not observe any abnormal conditions that indicated structural instability. Alkali aggregate reaction is a confirmed condition at the project and is currently being evaluated and monitored at a project laboratory and in Portugal by Dr. Silva.

The team returned to Harare, Zimbabwe, for the weekend with plans to inspect the Kariba Project on Tuesday of the following week. On Monday afternoon we departed Harare and arrived at Kariba, Zimbabwe during the early evening. We met with two engineers from the project the following morning. Unlike the Cahora Bassa staff, the staff at Kariba was not allowed by the Zambezi River Authority (ZRA) to disclose any significant technical data whatsoever about the project. They, however, provided general information and permitted the team to make a cursory inspection of the project from the crest of the dam. No evidence of structural instability was observed during the limited inspection of the dam. Like Cahora Bassa Dam, Kariba Dam has a confirmed alkali aggregate reaction condition. The current impact of this condition on the dam was not obvious from the inspection nor was any information disclosed on the issue.

The Kariba Project consists of a high head double curvature concrete arch dam with six spillway gates and two powerplants in the abutments. The countries of Zimbabwe and Zambia jointly own the project. One powerplant is located on the Zimbabwe side and one powerplant is located on the Zambia side. Management of the project is controlled by the Zambezi River Authority, which is composed of representatives from both countries.

Leaving Kariba, Zimbabwe, we traveled to Kafue Dam near Kafue, Zambia. At Kafue, we were briefed by the project staff and permitted to conduct a thorough inspection of the dam, spillway, and power intake structure. The Kafue Project consists of a rockfill dam with an incline impervious core, a spillway with four tainter gates, and a powerplant in the right abutment rock.

Our inspection of Kafue Dam did not



Kafue Dam, Kafue, Zambia, is another of the dams the team inspected.

reveal any condition that threatens the immediate structural integrity of the dam. However, Kafue suffers from an operational deficiency in that one of the spillway tainter gates cannot be raised. Consultants have advised the Kafue staff that movement of the left abutment is possible and could be the cause of this problem. Map cracking in the spillway bay walls suggests that alkali aggregate reaction, a confirmed condition at the project, may also be contributing to the problem. This condition has existed since 1993 and is in the schedule to be corrected in the near future.

The team traveled to Lusaka, Zambia, on March 22, for a meeting with the Zambezi River Authority (ZRA) and a meeting with the U.S. ambassador to Zambia. The meeting with ZRA proved unproductive in obtaining clearance on more open disclosure of data and access to the Kariba Project. It appeared that ZRA representatives were offended by our mission and perceived it as an indication that the U.S. was saying that ZRA did not know what it was doing. The meeting with the ambassador was real encouraging, however. He was interested in our conclusions for each dam and what could be done to address immediate needs, particularly at Kafue Dam. Except for finalizing our report, these meetings essentially completed our mission, and we began the journey back to our respective homes.

Embassy personnel Allen Brannan and

Lisa Peterson from the respective U.S. Embassies in Zimbabwe and Zambia were very instrumental in the team accomplishing its mission. Allen became one of us, the seventh person on the team. He traveled with the team throughout Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and Zambia, he guided us in getting out of one country and entering another, he stored our personal items, he permitted his house maid to do our laundry, he got a policeman to drop a speeding charge, and he did whatever else was necessary to help us accomplish the mission.

In addition to the foregoing mission, I thoroughly enjoyed the other opportunities afforded as part of this team. The scenery of Southern Africa was magnificent, and at times, it was breath taking. The people we met were friendly, helpful, and interesting. You could load up on African art. There was amazing wildlife to explore and enjoy. The food was very good to excellent and our living quarters were likewise. I got to worship with a local church in Harare, sing in the Shona language, speak to the congregation, and enjoy their hospitality. When I returned home on March 27, it dawned on me that this assignment was a unique experience, maybe a once in a lifetime experience and one that has enriched my life.

By the grace of God, we all stayed healthy, nobody got hurt, and the mission was accomplished. Would I do it again? Yes, in a heartbeat. □

Design Branch

Continued From Page 15

of the planning studies we are doing.”

One of the activities of many of the engineers in the Design Branch is managing A-E contracts.

“If you are going to do a good job of managing an A-E contract from the technical end of it, you are going to put a lot of time in on it,” said McClellan. “We are trying to maintain a certain level of contracted work; we want to keep interesting work in-house as much as possible, and we are trying to increase the overall workload in the District. Since we don’t have unlimited resources, we use A-E firms where we don’t have certain capabilities in-house or the manpower to do it within the timeframe needed. Kentucky Lock is a good example. We have been doing a good bit of that work in-house, but an awful lot of it is also A-E work, which we are managing.”

The challenges of the Structural Section are to balance the workload between in-house design work and the managing of the A-E work, according to McClellan.

“One of the biggest challenges is to make sure people get design work,” said McClellan. “Let’s face it, most of the people in this section went to school to be an engineer not a paper shuffler and as we do a tremendous amount of A-E work, unfortunately they are getting more into the paper shuffling end. Folks do get frustrated so we try to keep interesting work in-house to let people develop themselves as engineers.”

In the future, there is the possibility of the Design Branch doing some work on the Panama Canal, according to McClellan. “There is a need for increasing the water supply in the Canal and the Corps and Nashville District may be a player in project. It would be good work for us.”

In the near future, the next two to five years, most of the energy and talent of the Design Branch will be focused on Kentucky Lock. When one says “Kentucky Lock” in the Design Branch, probably the first engineer to come to mind is Ron Carter, a civil engineer in the Civil-Structural Section and the lead technical engineer for Kentucky Lock. He has been involved in the project since the feasibility study began in the late-1980s and for the last four to five years has devoted most of

his time to the project.

“I am acting as the lead technical engineer on the lock and the cofferdams,” said Carter. “I work very closely with the project manager who on Kentucky, at least, does a lot of technical work also. Buddy Abbott is technical on the relocations work. I’m also being assisted by others in the section such as Larry Haley who is doing a big part of the cofferdam work as well as the majority of the technical review work.”

Revolutionize Effectiveness

“What’s been happening is when we just had a few dollars, I was doing a lot of design work myself,” said Carter. “We then started going out to A-Es, and the work of handling A-E contracts got so large that we’ve now started pulling others into the project. We probably have most of the people in the branch working on it. Most of my time is spent managing A-Es and doing technical coordination with others on the design team, but I am still involved in determining where the valves and bulkheads are going and general things related to the mooring systems, and other design features. Probably not as much as I’d like to.”

The other section in the Design Branch is the Electrical-Mechanical Section headed by Mark Kuhlo. This section is responsible for the electrical and mechanical design functions in the District.

“Our mission is the same as the Branch’s to support Project Management, Planning, Operations and Construction in order to fulfill the District’s mission,” said Kuhlo. “We do that by providing the design expertise for the electrical and mechanical functions.”

The section is also involved in Kentucky Lock both by managing A-E contracts and by doing in-house design work. According to Kuhlo, they are going to try to keep certain aspects of Kentucky Lock in-house.

“Jerry Lee, our senior mechanical engineer will be handling the hydraulic machinery design on Kentucky,” said Kuhlo. “I think we are going to try to have Mark Thomas do the designs on the floating mooring bits. On the electrical side, we are waiting until our senior electrical engineer comes back from long-term training to finalize what aspects of the electrical work we will keep in-house.”

Because of the nature of power plants and locks, the Electrical-Mechanical Section is heavily involved supporting the maintenance and rehab activities at these structures.

“We work on the locks, dams, and powerhouses,” said Kuhlo. “Since our projects are aging and requiring more maintenance with respect to the mechanical and electrical components, the operations maintenance work in the District normally keeps us pretty busy.”

The engineers of the Design Branch are supported by three engineering technicians, Dalton McCrary, Carl Durrett, and Steve Duncan who assist them by producing engineering design drawings, working with A-Es on design plans and assisting them in creating designs.

“We do plans and specs, coordinate with A-Es, get design data together to produce designs and actually produce the drawings,” said McCrary. “About 75 percent of it is working in CADD (Computer Aided Design and Drafting) to produce drawings.”

“Our engineering technicians are top notch,” said Wilson. “We could not get our work done without them. We are fortunate to have some senior technicians who are very knowledgeable.”

The Design Branch recently got a familiar face as its new chief, Mike Wilson. He began his career in the Design Branch and recently served as the Chief of the Civil-Structural Section for a year on a temporary assignment. He has a great deal of respect for the team members in the branch and their professionalism.

“My first job in the Corps of Engineers was in the Design Branch and I always thought my last job in the Corps of Engineers would be in the Design Branch,” said Wilson. “The Design Branch is a great organization to be in. We have a great group of guys. Every one of them is a professional. They are talented and respected. I feel very fortunate to be sitting at this desk. As a young engineer, this was my goal to be Chief of the Design Branch. It came sooner than I ever thought it would, and I do feel fortunate because there are a lot of adequate people who could be sitting here today. I also feel fortunate to be working in an organization that I have as much respect for as this one.” □

The Corps Crowd

Congratulations to..

... Bill Barnes who has been selected to serve as the interim DDE effective April 1 until Maj. Richard L. Shelton arrives in mid-June.

... Vicky Caldwell, selected for a temporary developmental assignment as the Chief Logistics Management Office.

... Lester and Hazel Randles who celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary May 4. Lester retired in 1973 as Chief, District Office Supply Division which included Contracting, Purchasing, and Property Management.

... Carl Crews, resource manager, Old Hickory Lake, whose daughter, Teresa, was inducted into the Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society at MTSU. She is a senior and will graduate in December.

... Lisa Jerrell, civil engineer, Middlesboro, Ky. whose daughter Kayley Jerrell, a sixth grade student at Ward Chapel Elementary, was named winner of the Third Annual Kentucky Derby Festival Spelling Bee for the second year in a row. She will go on to represent Bell County in the State Kentucky Derby Festival Spelling Bee in Louisville. The state winner will then advance to the National Spelling Bee Finals in Washington, D.C.

... Ms. Braelyn J. Smith, office automation clerk, Human Resources graduated with a BS degree in Business Management on May 8. She graduated from Fisk University in Nashville, with high academic honors.

... Jennifer Robertson, Office Automation Clerk, Laurel River Lake, Resource Manager's Office on her recent graduation with honors from Cumberland College. Robertson was selected as the Business Student of the Year during their Awards Ceremony last month. Robertson has been accepted and will begin a graduate program at Tennessee Tech in August.

... Emmett Forte, safety officer, and his wife, Peggy, whose grandson, Sam Herrmann, a six grader competed in the National Geographic's Geography Bee for sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students. Congratulations to Sam for finishing in the top 17 in the state.

... Sherrill Edwards-Owens, conservation biologist/ranger, Cordell Hull Lake, whose son, Winston will be attending The McCallie School for boys in Chattanooga 9th - 12th grades as a boarding student.

... Janet Pryor, communications office assistant, whose daughter, Amy, is graduating from Murray State University, Murray, Ky., on May 13 with a degree in Design Engineering Technology. She has accepted a position with Trim Masters Inc., in Harrodsburg, Ky., and will be designing parts for Toyota cars.

... Vicky Caldwell, planning programs and project manager, whose husband, Rick, was selected as Teacher of the Year for East Middle School.

... Nancy Manahan, Finance and Accounting Branch, promoted to Finance Officer.

... Donald L. Deans, Florence Repair Station, whose son, Chris, a graduate of Rogers High School, recently received an Athletic Scholarship to attend Northwest Community College.

... Robert Karwedsky, Environmental Team, Project Planning Branch, whose daughter Kari will graduate from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, on May 12, with a Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering. She was recently given an award for being the Engineering Department's Outstanding Student in Electrical Engineering for 2000. She has accepted a position at Sanders, a Lockheed Martin Company, in Nashua, N.H., beginning in June 2000. She will be pursuing a Master's Degree through Sander's Engineering Leadership Development Program (ELDP) while working.

... Jo Hurst (Nashville District retiree), whose grandson, Derrick, received an academic scholarship to Vanderbilt University.

... Shonka White, student aide, Equal Employment Office, received standing ovations each night for her starring performance in "God's Trombone" April 6-7 at Fisk University. White is known here in the District for her acting and singing prowess. White's voice has contributed to several functions since she joined the District.

Welcome to...

... B.J. Fagan, new Budget Officer coming from Savanna District, and Dan Hampton, new Chief of Resource Management Office, coming from Albuquerque District.

... Elaine Bustillos, detailed for one year to the Security Office as the Security Assistant.

... Walt Petersen, who transferred to the District from the Corps of Engineers in Korea as the new Chief of Logistics Management Office.

Farewell to...

... Maj. Robin L. Hagerty, former Deputy District Engineer from June 1996 to April 1999, who transferred to Fort Bragg, N.C.

Wedding Bells for...

... Terra Trousedale, Office Automation Clerk, Wilson Lock, who was married to Nicholas Thornton on March 11.

Baby Brigade...

... William Nelson (lock operator, Cheatham Lock) and Janice Nelson (supply tech, Old Hickory Resource) are PROUD grandparents (second time) of a baby girl, Sarah Grace Dotson, born March 15. Parents and big sister are doing great.

... Dale Overly, shift operator, Wolf Creek Power Plant, and wife Penny welcomed the arrival of their third grandchild. Sara Elizabeth Overly was born Feb. 9 to Eric and Stacey Overly.

Sympathy to...

... Lissa Maxwell, Budget Branch, whose father, Andrew Leonard Maxwell, passed away in March.

... Joe Jackson, Information Management Office Programming Support, whose daughter, Rosemary Stoops, passed away in March.

... Julie Reeves, Management Support Branch, Construction-Operations Division, Management Support Branch, whose mother, June Bellows, passed away on March 11.

... Rosa Jones, procurement technician, Contracting Division and her family on the

Corps Crowd Continued

passing of their 100-year-old great-aunt, Mrs. Nellie Jack Richmond on April 12.

... Gary Stinson's family on the death of his mother, Mrs. Ester Lucy Stinson, who died on April 10.

... Randell Conner, maintenance worker at Wolf Creek Power Plant, on the recent death of his brother, Glenn Conner.

... Louie Binkley, derrickboat operator in the Plant Section, on the death of his father, Louis "Tommy" Binkley who passed away on April 1.

... Family of Brian Pierce, maintenance worker, Plant Section on the death of his grandmother, Flora Tice in April.

... Marlin Wells, lock section, Technical Support Branch, Construction-Operations Division, whose father, Marvin S. (Samuel) Wells, a retired Corps employee, passed away at the age 83 in May.

... Family of Edward E. Drake, a retired Corps employee, passed away at the age of 90 in May.

Thank You...

... Lissa Maxwell, "Thank you to everyone that helped me through the difficult time of my father's recent death. I cannot express enough how grateful I am for all the visits, cards, flowers, and donations to his church and Vanderbilt Cancer Clinic. Aside from all the kind words expressed, the most important thank you is for just "being there for me" whether physically or in your thoughts and prayers. Your acts of kindness were deeply appreciated."

... Julie Reeves, "I would like to thank everyone who sent cards and called concerning the recent death of my mother, June Bellows. It really meant a lot to me. Thanks Corps Family."

... Major Robin L. Hagerty and Family, "I wanted to take a few minutes and say Aloha! to a great group of people. I will not even try and mention all the things that we have accomplished over these last almost 4 years, while I've been here. Or try to individually thank by name all the people who have made it all possible. To all of the Nashville District employees, you have truly made the District a great place to be. The District has come along way down several paths. I think we are heading in a great direction. I look forward to hearing good thing about Nashville District in the future. I want to add a

side note to this with a special thank you to all the female team members who have taken a special pride in my being Nashville's Deputy Commander and who have helped me keep on the correct path. This has been one of those great jobs. Through the good times and the tough decisions, I have enjoyed coming to work and spending my time with you all. If you make your way through Ft. Bragg, NC, be sure to look me up."

... Wanda Coleman, "I'd like to thank the Nashville District Family for the food, the cards, all of your prayers and the support that you gave me after the loss of my father, Leonard M. Thompson. My

family and I appreciate all that you have done for us. It's true that you never realize what you have until it is gone. I was blessed to have had a closer relationship with my father in his last year. My father was a bus driver and I recently learned that he suffered a heart attack while he was driving his bus. With divine intervention he was able to get his bus off the road safely and call for help. Soon afterwards he had quadruple bypass surgery. He lived about 13 months after the surgery. I hope to carry his sense of caring, loyalty and dedication until I am no more. I pray that we are all ready, as he was, when our time comes. Thanks again." □

Calendar

June

National Dairy Month, National Patriots Month, Cancer in the Sun Month, American Rivers Month, National Iced Tea Month, National Pest Control Month, Recycling Month and National Rose Month.

3	ROTC established by Act of Congress in 1916
6	First air flight out of the sight of land (Scotland to Norway) in 1914
11	JFK says segregation is morally wrong & that it is "time to act" in 1963
16	Corps of Engineers Picnic at Rockland Recreation Area, Old Hickory Lake

Information for the December calendar must be received in the Public Affairs Office by June 15. Please send email to William.L.Peoples@usace.army.mil. Information on events and activities of interest to all District employees is requested from the staff and the field.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Nashville District
P.O. Box 1070
Nashville, TN 37202-1070

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
NASHVILLE, TN
PERMIT NO. 559

Barges Sink at Wilson, Cause Massive Traffic Delay on the River

by Bill Peoples

Less than two weeks apart two barges sank at Wilson Lock on the Tennessee River, causing a massive bottleneck for navigation traffic on the river and long delays in passing through Wilson Lock. No one was injured in either accident.

In both cases, team members from the Nashville District sprang to rescue personnel, avert further damage to the lock and respond to the crisis.

"I'd like to commend the people from the Physical Support Branch," said Jim Davis, operations manager, Florence Area Office. "They really swung into action on both of these accidents and did what needed to be done. Also, the crew here at Wilson did an outstanding job responding."

The first incident took place on May 2 when one barge broke loose from a nine-barge tow being lifted from Pickwick Lake to Wilson Lake in the main chamber. The barge, which was carrying a dry form of cement, became entangled in the lower gate and broke away from the tow. It sunk and landed on its side. There appears to be only minor damage to the lock, according to Davis.

"We won't know for sure until we get down there to inspect, but it looks like we were lucky and only have some minor damage to the gate," said Davis. "We are waiting on Ingram Barge to give us a salvage plan. Once we approve it. They can move in, cut up the barge and remove it."

The second sinking took place on Sunday, May 14, which was Mother's Day. A barge loaded with steel coils sank unexpectedly at about 6 a.m. One deckhand on board was rescued by the operators on duty. The cause of the sinking is currently unknown.

Nashville District personnel from the plant section and repair party were already on site at the main lock for the dewatering and responded immediately. A crane was brought in to remove the heavy coils, and large metal plates were welded onto the barge to increase buoyancy in order to re-float it.

"We did all the work, except operating the crane," said Davis. "We unloaded the coils and did the welding to secure the steel plates to the barge in order to float it. After we have it floated, we'll move it to the repair station where the U.S. Coast Guard will inspect it for seaworthiness."

The second accident added to the backlog of tows waiting to lock through

the auxiliary lock, which can only lock one barge at a time. At press time there were more than 240 barges waiting to be locked through. These accidents again highlighted the experience, expertise and dedication of the personnel who work at the locks in the District and also of the personnel in the Physical Support Branch, according to Davis.

"When the accidents happened we had people there almost immediately," said Davis. "On the first barge, we had people from the repair party who were already down here in preparation for the dewatering, and of course on the second one, we had begun dewatering the main chamber so we just moved people over to the auxiliary to handle the emergency. When the accident happened, we also called in additional people from other locks in order to continue the dewatering on the main lock. We had people from Pickwick, Old Hickory and Cheatham Locks. This was on Mother's Day, but they responded quickly and with great attitudes, which made the job a lot easier." □

For photographs see the Digest Online
<http://www.orn.usace.army.mil/pao/digest/>
